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OLD LADY

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THIS IS WHY WE THINK WE'RE BETTER THAN YOU



VOL. 101 NO. 47 TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

WHY IS SIHL SIDEWAYS?

SERIOUSLY, I'M CONFUSED



"This Snitchell asshole MIGHT STILL WALK"

Crown back to drawing board due to single piece of fuzzy evidence which potentially fucks everything up

BY RON KBETCH

Prosecutors in the case against alleged killer and aspiring filmmaker Marlow Snitchell were shocked to discover a single ambiguity in the evidence, which may make what was shaping up as one of the most obvious and easily winnable cases in the history of Canadian crime slightly more difficult.

The 31-year-old Snitchell has been on trial in the Edmonton Court of Queen's Bench for the past month on a first-degree murder charge after being accused of luring Jimmy Saltinger to his garage over the internet in October 2008, then beating and stabbing him to death, before dismembering him and dumping his body in a sewer.

The disturbing case had so far provided nearly surreal amounts of evidence indicting Snitchell for the crime, the kind of evidence that would have any lawyer or prosecutor literally shitting their pants with glee. Snitchell even confessed to the murder last week, going with a highly dubious "self-defence" argument that provided lawyers everywhere with hearty belly laughs, until the prosecution heard a single testimony that may have just royally fucked everything up.

"Jesus christ, how could this happen now?" Crown prosecutor Avril Dingaling yelled incredulously at a press scrum on Friday. Earlier in the afternoon, a woman testified that she saw Snitchell physically struggling with a man who may have been Saltinger through the window of the garage where the kill allegedly took place, lending enough credence to the self-defence argument as to drag the case out for several more months or lead to a reduced sentence.

"I mean, the guy had Post-It Notes saying 'kill-room clean sweep,'" Dingaling continued, completely flabbergasted and slightly sweaty. "There was blood that experts say matched Saltinger's all over his garage floor, on his shoes, and on the pipe he used to 'allegedly' commit the murder. Receipts for the butchering equipment were found in his house. Snitchell's basically admitted to being a pathological liar. He idolized the TV character *Dexter* for shit's sakes', he had a document on his computer called 'This is the story of my progression into becoming a serial killer' that was the start of a novel that basically mimicked the exact details of the real-life case to a tee. I could probably go on."

Most legal observers had agreed that quite possibly the only way to make the case more cut-and-dry were if police were to have found a videotape showing Snitchell committing the murder, then saying directly into the camera, "I planned this murder for weeks, and definitely didn't commit it in self-defence." But most agreed that even that wouldn't be as ridiculous as hearing that Snitchell had previously tried to kill another man who he'd lured to his garage over the internet, who managed to escape, then didn't go to the police.

The sensational nature of the case has captured international headlines so far, mostly due to the fact that this was the first case since OJ where everyone assumed that the verdict "guilty as fuck" was but a foregone conclusion. As well, the trial had up until this point almost been a joke amongst lawyers in the country as the kind of case one could win if blindfolded and unable to speak, or a case thrown to rookie lawyers as a way to ease them into building a case.

But Friday saw many of the jurors finally waking up slowly and rubbing their eyes, having gotten into the habit of promptly nodding off as soon as the case resumed, along with judge Jerry Rackson. However, the team of prosecutors who were cross-examining Snitchell seemed to have lost steam by Monday due to the new revelation, with some wondering aloud whether or not it was worth it to keep going now that the trial may require actual work for a conviction. There is now an almost astronomical, though now possible, probability that Snitchell may be found innocent.

"It sounds like a bad joke," Dingaling ranted. "Or a case lawyers who just passed the bar merely dream of getting. Fuck, if this case were an episode of Law and Order, I think every single person watching would complain that the show jumped the shark. Yet this Snitchell asshole might still walk."

The trial continues Wednesday.

Layton admits defeat, kinda

NDP leader loves campaigning, hates actual governance

FATT PEWS
inside you

New Democrat leader Jack Layton admitted yesterday that the NDP will "probably never" form the Government of Canada.

"Frankly, I think it's overly optimistic to suggest that we'll ever even be the official opposition," said Layton, speaking candidly to the press Monday.

"Every few years, there's a federal election called and I like to get out on the campaign trail and pretend I have a snowflake's chance in hell of being the Prime Minister," he continued. "But it's becoming clear that it's just not going to happen."

Layton said he enjoys the excitement of campaigning on the road, going from city to city, and meeting new supporters along the way.

"You won't believe some of the hot groupies that come to my rallies," he explained, with a noticeable bulge in his pants. "It's always the young, intelligent people who like us. That's really the only great thing about the NDP — college bitches."

While Layton's priest was eager to hear what other confessions might arise, political pundits welcomed the comment from the NDP leader.

"It's refreshing to hear [Layton] finally come to terms with where he stands in the federal political arena," said Darren Holsinger, a Toronto-based political commentator. "You just don't expect that kind of honesty from someone who looks that much like an used car salesman."

Layton denies any ties towards the secondhand vehicle industry, though he claims the NDP has the best mileage in its class, and can be voted in with 0 per cent financing.

Since its inception in 1961, the New Democratic Party has failed to achieve any major success in the federal arena, despite forming several governments at the provincial level.

See MYBALLS, A13

Where the Streets Have No Name, U2

CANADA

KITTY CAT CUTENESS

Harper unveils his new secret weapon for the upcoming federal election. *Page A4*

WORLD

BITCH HOFO

The Insane Clown Posse explains the nuclear crisis in Japan. *Page A6*



> *People are giving Obama shit over Libya? If I were Commander-in-Chief, I'd bomb that place into an immense crater. More like 'Lib-flatasapancake-ya' – Barbara Bush*

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Elizabeth May

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CBCnews

2012 US ELECTION

The female Bush

Even in a nation accustomed to the likes of Sarah Palin, the revelation that Barbara Bush hopes to take up her husband's mantle as President is shocking.



GRAHAM MCKOOHKIE, GHETTO IMAGES

Oooo-oooo-oooo-ooooh oooo-oooo-ooooh oooo-oooo-Barbara Bush

While the presidential election is still another 17 months away, contenders for the Republican nomination are already coming out of the woodwork — just last week Barbara Bush declared she would run for the top spot in 2012.

The wife of former president George Bush, Sr., and matriarch to a number of retarded politicians throughout the country, the new Bush has promised to bring a modicum of sanity back to the Republican Party.

"I'm tired of these politicians coming in and messing with my country," Bush told a crowd of retirees and near-dead elderly at a kickoff event in Iowa. "It's about time we took back power from the men in this country. The power is in the uterus!"

Bush promised to run on a platform of tax cuts and expanded wars overseas. She pointed to the two wars in the Middle East her family has started as the direction she wants to take the nation.

"People are giving Obama shit over Libya? If I were Commander-in-Chief, I'd bomb that place into an immense crater. More like 'Lib-flatasapancake-ya'"

Bush's stance on national defence has garnered her a strong following among Appalachian yokels and Dick Cheney. Her tax cut proposals — called some of the deepest since Lincoln tried to entice the south back into the union by dropping taxes on cotton underwear — will bring along the rest of the Republican Party.

She also wants to bring women's issues to the front of the debate in the Republican nomination process.

"Every woman should be allowed to bake pie and live in peace," said Bush.

But Bush isn't the only former politician to enter into the 2012 race. The reanimated corpse of former vice president Spiro Agnew has thrown his hat into the ring, promising to cut the number of bribes he will take as a politician in half, though wiretappings would triple.

Political watchers said this year could be one of the most interesting when it comes to the Republican nomination. While early interest had gone almost entirely to the Witch from Wasilla, the interest from the Bush and Agnew campaigns could sway voters.

But they also point out that the two will be pulling from the party's base, the elderly and undead, two groups that already vote in large numbers in Republican primaries. Splitting those votes could allow for a third candidate to run up the middle and take the nomination. And with younger candidates such as Chris Brown entering the field, it could be difficult for the older candidates to break out this year.

"I have to give it to Brown. He's promised to 'beat the hell out of crime,' which could give him a boost in the terrified Republican base," said pollster Nicholas Nantis. "It could be an interesting year."

The Republican nomination process will kick off late in the summer and continue on until what feels like the end of time.

VANCOUVER LADY NOT AFRAID OF RADIATION

A Vancouver mother of three is responding in an entirely rational and level-headed fashion to concerns of nuclear fallout from the malfunctioning reactor in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

After an initial explosion on March 12, the reactor remains on the verge of a complete catastrophic meltdown in the aftermath of the devastating Japanese tsunami in early March. But Rosalyn Holdeman, who lives a mere 7400 kilometres from the reactor, remains quite shockingly unfazed, even though she could possibly be turned into a seven-eyed tentacled monster.

"I don't really see what all the fuss is about," she said. "By the time any fallout reached us here, it wouldn't even be noticeably more than normal background radiation. I think. I'm not a doctor, though."

Inhabitants of much of the west coast of North America are bracing for the imminent arrival of fallout from the explosion, which experts say will hit "any day now." But despite these and other warnings, Holdeman insists there's no reason to panic.

"There is literally no way this will have any measurable effect on me and my family," she said.



THIS GUY'S CRAZY SWEET GPS PHONE

FUCKING GPS IS CRAZZZYY

After using his smartphone's GPS connectivity to navigate his way to a store he'd never been to before, Toronto resident Max Suits expressed his complete and utter amazement at the device's capabilities.

"Have you seen one of these cunts?" Suits said. "I can do stuff they couldn't even imagine on *Star Trek*, for shit's sake. I have more computing power than all of NASA did in 1969, right here in my fucking pocket. We live in the goddamn future."

Unsure of whether to attribute his GPS to black magic or atomic physics, Suits continued to be amazed.

"Jesus titty-fucking Christ," he added. "This is really just batshit insane."

ROBINSON ON THE LOOSE

The RCMP have issued a nation-wide warning for Canadians to look out for a dangerous vigilante on the loose.

Frank Robinson escaped from a municipal holding cell in Edmonton, Alta., where he was previously living.

"He's supposedly a chicken gynecologist," said RCMP officer Harry Paratestes, who had previously dealt with Robinson first-hand. "They're the most dangerous kind of gynecologists we know of."

Robinson is wanted after saving a school bus full of our nation's future leaders, but recklessly killing ten other innocent bystanders in the process.

The dead included at least seven UN workers — four Nepalese guards and three Europeans from Romania, Sweden, and Norway. Rumours have recently surfaced that the UN workers were actually peacekeepers to keep a close watch on the untapped badassery of Robinson.

The RCMP warns civilians to stay at least 30 feet from Robinson at all times.

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CANADA



"Ed Stelmach is a bigger wastrel than Dalton McGuinty or even Bob Rae."
— *Ezra Levant*

ELECTION 2011

"Contempt of Parliament" platform might help Tories achieve majority

DIJONN KMETCHUP
on a hot dog

Stephen Harper unveiled his election platform for the future of Canada Friday, hoping that a plan that includes targeted tax cuts, a balanced budget, and the outright refusal to give any details about his party's activities could give him the edge he needs to get a majority.

"Contempt for Canada: Our Country, Your Future," the name for the platform document, promised to balance the deficit in Canada by 2015. Harper explained how they this would be achieved through such austerity measures as not revealing the costs of their crime legislation, the cost of their tax cuts, or the cost of a couple dozen shiny new fighter jets.

As well, Harper said the government would reduce federal spending by $4 billion, though he would not reveal how. In response to multiple questions from media at a recent press conference, Harper only said "don't worry about it."

Reporters were happy to hear that response, and went home early.

"This is one of the most forward-thinking plans we've ever released. Trust me, if you were allowed to read it, you'd agree," Harper explained at the Conservative party event where he launched the platform.

"We are going to be bringing democratic values crashing back down in this country."

The plan also proposes a series of short-term goals that the party pledged to achieve. According to the platform, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty would be found extorting money, Rona Ambrose would get caught in attempting to bribe opposition MPs, and Peter MacKay would be seen on videotape forging documents regarding when the Canadian military would begin pulling out of Afghanistan.

Harper also guaranteed Canadians that the country would have at least one event similar to the recent G8 summit, though it would be located near Quebec City and provide an excuse to funnel millions of dollars into building a new arena and shopping complex within a Tory-held riding.

Since the release of the plan, the Conservatives have seen a rise in their polling numbers, and are closing in on a majority.

"At least they're being honest, and aren't doing anymore of this 'accountability in government' bullshit," explained Granny Smith, a long-time Liberal supporter from Toronto who claimed that the "contempt" platform had caused her to bring her vote back to Harper's party.

"If the government's going to be fucking me sideways anyway, it's good to know that they're up front about it."

National Post
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MAN DICKECHNIE

Harper's new platform aims to fix Canada's deficit in four years.

HARPER REFUSING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS MEDIA FORBIDDEN TO ASK

DON DE METCHI
in a phone booth

Prime Minister Stephen Harper rounded out another day on the campaign trail Monday by refusing questions from journalists that they had been barred from asking in the first place.

"I believe I've made my stance on the economy very clear. I will now avoid any questions you have," Harper said at a press conference in Winnipeg attended solely by his press secretary Dmitri Soudas, as members of the press stood more than 500 metres away, cordoned off by a fence and attempting to hear. "Seeing none, I hope you can support our vision for Canada."

Since the first few days of the election campaign, Harper would have come under increasing fire from citizens and journalists across the country regarding his campaign's tight control of information, had the Prime Minister not banned the media from asking such inquiries with the party's recently released "Contempt for Information" rule, which prevents rational thought. Since then, the number of questions not being asked has continued to increase.

"We must remain accountable to the Canadian people. I said from the beginning that I would not keep any secrets," Harper stated to no one at a town hall meeting in St. John's, Nfld., as Globe and Mail reporters identified as being someone other than a Conservative Party member remained outside.

Mr. Harper has gotten into the swing of things on the campaign trail, typically beginning each day with an announcement, followed by a press conference that is attended by his press secretary, as well as his wife, Lauren Harper, and their two children. Prior to his outright refusal to defend his party's platforms or his previous government's decisions, the Conservative campaign had only been avoiding five questions per press conference.

The new rule has not caused any significant repercussions for the party among the Canadian populace, and according to a new poll, Mr. Harper's leadership ratings have actually increased among Canadians eager not to hear what Harper isn't saying.

The other party leaders have been quick to criticize Harper for his refusal to talk to the media, though their comments have not been broadcast due to a media embargo on such comments until after the election is over. When pressed on the issue, the Conservative party defended their decision to censor the media by taking aim at Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff's record.

"The last person to criticize the Conservatives for refusing to speak to the media is Michael Ignatieff," said former Conservative House leader John Baird. "Mr. Ignatieff lived in the U.S. for years while teaching at Harvard. Was he being asked questions by the Canadian press then? No. And was he answering them? Absolutely not. So why should we have to answer to the Canadian people, when he wasn't even being asked questions or answering said questions for so long?"

The battle against transparency and accountability has not been an easy one for the Conservative party campaign. In one close call, a reporter for CBC climbed a 40-foot barrier in Antigonish, NS., and tried to ask the Prime Minister how tax cuts would help get rid of a deficit, but she was rapidly taken out by Conservative Party snipers. Boom, headshot.

"Simply because Mr. Harper is refusing to answer questions that aren't being allowed doesn't mean that he doesn't have answers to such questions, were they to actually be asked," Mr. Soudas said to a crowd of reporters in Halifax who had been fitted with Conservative Party of Canada-brand muzzles.

So far, political observers of the election have acknowledged that Harper's media control has, against all logical thinking, worked in his benefit.

"It's actually quite an adept political maneuver, representing not one, but two layers of information control and doublespeak," said Dr. John Douglas, an associate professor of political science at the University of Ottawa. "If Mr. Harper and the Conservatives were simply avoiding the questions, or only allowing a few per day, it would simply be arrogant and insulting to anyone who values democratic principles and the fourth estate.

"But he's taken it a step further, subverting the need to refuse questions by simply preventing anyone from grilling him on why his government was held in contempt of Parliament, why he didn't fire International Coordination Minister Bev Oda after she altered documents, or why he knew one of his closest advisers was a convicted fraudster and still hired him. And the fact that the other leaders are hardly questioning him on such stonewalling, which would improve their own public image, makes them look even more incompetent.

"At a time when a party founded on separatism has more accountability to the Canadian people in the media, the fact that Mr. Harper continues to appeal to greater numbers of citizens both amazes me, and makes me seriously question the intelligence of the voting public."

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Harper brings in teh kittenz

PRATT FERGY
in Van City

After weeks of bad press, Stephen Harper has unveiled a new campaign which outlines how he plans to finally win the parliamentary majority that he's been looking for, by concentrating on voters that might not be persuaded by his more intellectual rival.

"Today is a new day for Canadian democracy," Harper said at his stump speech yesterday afternoon. "Today is the day where we bring our feline friends into every home across this great country."

In a move that's upped the cuteness quotient of Harper's re-election campaign, the current Prime Minister has been seen bringing in kittens to his speeches.

"All cats, all the time!" Harper said when prompted for details about his new campaign. "The picture of me with my cat that's been hovering around the internet for months is a huge hit. Since I don't have an substantial platform, now all I have are my cats.

"Micheal Ignatieff may kiss a lot of babies, but I've just upped my game. Cats are the new babies, and I've got like a million of them," Harper said defiantly.

"I love these fuzzy little bastards," said Harper, although he did note that his personal physician had to treat some nasty scratches after an incident with a rogue dog.

"I would definitely say that cats are way better than dogs. You know who hates animals? My opponent Jack Layton. I heard that he kicked puppies when he was a mustachioed kid," Harper said at a meat-packing plant, while those in attendance jeered to indicate their disapproval of Layton's perceived exploits. In addition, one of the kittens had to be forcibly removed from the rally after allegations surfaced that the kitten had pissed in Michael Ignatieff's litter box as an infant.

While details of his new platform are sparse, Harper explained that his new campaign will pull at the heart strings of all Canadians. And when he asked about his social policy at a town hall speech earlier today, Harper was able to avoid the question when a tiny kitten crawled out of his sleeve.

"D'AWWWW," he said while petting the Tabby kitten nervously. "Look at this little guy! Who cares about tax breaks for the poor when you can look at this adorable ball of fuzz?"

Harper also promised a ball of yarn for every household, and expressed interest in abolishing health care in favour of nation-wide catnip dispensaries. He also said that he's considering allowing his cats to run in several hotly contested ridings, including Edmonton-Strathcona where the struggling Ryan Lastman may be replaced by an adorable Persian cat slyly named Reynold Catsman to avoid any confusion.

Catsman was asked about his strategy against New Dog Party candidate Linda Dogcan, but was busy chasing a laser pointer as of press time.

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EMMANUEL MCDICK-KNEE FOR NATIONAL PEST

Im in ur office, taking over ur governments

A FIGHT TO THE DEATH

Pirate party victorious after live debate turns into bloody battle royale

SIMONE JACKULATE
in Whitecourt

The 2011 Canadian election debate degenerated into a vicious and bloody battle royale Tuesday, with Pirate Party leader Mikkel Paulson emerging as the sole living leader and, by default, the winner of the federal election.

The carnage started shortly after the scheduled televised live debate began, with Harper laying a vision for the country that wouldn't include a coalition between the Liberals, the NDP, and the Bloc, which he claimed Iggy would form. The Liberal leader claimed that Harper was making the entire thing up.

"No, I wouldn't do that," Iggy countered. "I don't have friends."

"Yes you would do it!" Harper exclaimed, further claiming that the Liberal leader, in addition to being "too smart for Canadians," was also "breathing his air."

Just as most Canadians began to tune out of the childish debate and watch more interesting things on TV, such as fishing, golf, and poker, the contest began to heat up. Green Party leader Elizabeth May, who had previously been excluded from the debates, burst through onto the stage through the glass ceiling and menaced the debaters with a sawed-off shotgun.

"Canadians want choices. It looks like with you four dead they'll have an easier choice!" the aging hippie declared as she fired round after round of lead towards the party leaders, who quickly sought cover and ducked under chairs and tables, arming themselves with random tools in the studio.

Unfortunately, the network representative, who had refused to allow May to join in on the debate, didn't get down quickly enough, and was soon cowering on the floor directly in front of the enraged tree-hugger. As his brains splattered against the studio walls, May's cackle rang out throughout the room — unfortunately distracting Jack Layton, who didn't see Harper sneak up on him, armed with a hammer and sickle he had scavenged out of the CBC's storage closet.

With that, the mortally wounded Layton swung a chair towards the Prime Minister, and the stage erupted into a bloody deathmatch as Duceppe and Iggy ran screaming at each other across the stage.

"I can't believe I left my post at Harvard for this shit!" Ignatieff moaned, drawing an old, rusty Russian sword while wiping off the remains of the banana crepes that Duceppe had thrown at his face.

Unfortunately, the next 10 minutes of the brutal match can only be speculated on, as the blood of the old separatist leader soon covered the sole camera recording the debate. At one point, a faint figure holding a sword could be made out standing over a lifeless corpse in the centre of the stage, yelling "and I sure as hell didn't come back for you!"

When a new feed had been established, it appeared that members of the Canadian Pirate Party had stormed the room, tied up the other leaders and forced them to walk from a plank out of the network's studio 70 floors above Yonge Street in Toronto. A Pirate Party spokesman acknowledged that they would be seizing the country, and explained that "yes, we arrr those kind of pirates."

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ELECTION 2011

Tanguay to lead Bloc Québécois battle in Calgary-Southwest

Calgary Flames player thinks he has a chance

BY DEVON AUM

In a bold move Monday, the Bloc Québécois announced at a press conference in Southwest Calgary that they would officially become Canada's most hated national party, unveiling their first campaign outside of Quebec. The Bloc will be taking on Prime Minister Stealin Harpseals in his own backyard, where Calgary Flame forward and flaming separatist Alex Tanguay will be on the ballot for the Bloc in the riding of Calgary-Southwest.

While the Bloc had flirted with the idea of launching a campaign outside the province of Quebec in the past, party leader Dills Doucheit felt the time was right for his party to take on the Premier Ministre out West.

"If Stealin thinks he can simply scamper off to Calgary and ignore Quebec, he is wrong. The Bloc will never stop our pursuit of irritating Canadians, and there's no better place to piss people off than in Calgary," Doucheit said at the press conference.

The party's historic candidate was more than excited to ruin the goodwill he had built from a solid season with Alberta's better, yet still extremely shitty, NHL team by carrying the Bloc banner in a battleground riding.

"There's nothing like taking our fight for independence to the least sympathetic place in le country," Tanguay said in a rather anglicized French accent. "I've loved Doucheit's leadership for years and have secretly been planting the seeds for an independent Quebec during my NHL career."

> There's no better place to piss people off than in Calgary.

Harpseals declined comment Monday, as he was too busy kicking people out of rallies around the province of Ontario for being politically active (or French). However, his communications director Dimwit Soupsauce did issue a statement through his rather teenage-girl-like MySpace page, next to the gratuitous photos of himself.

"The Prime Minister secretly hates Doucheit and the entire province of Quebec despite giving them that whole 'distinct society' label a few years back — he is from western Canada after all. He looks forward to taking on the Bloc in his own riding and crushing their little fleur-de-lis-lovin' candidate," the statement said.

Despite the bold move by the Bloc that would seemingly make no sense, early polls indicate that Tanguay is among the front runners to win the election in the rather arrogant Calgary-Southwest riding.

An Ipso Facto poll showed that as of Monday night, three hours after Tanguay's campaign launched, he was second in the polls to Harpseal, with 0.3 per cent of support. The Nude Democats were third in the poll at -0.5 per cent.

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Corina Ganton: Peace River
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Zack Siezmagraff: Yellowhead
Matthew Sinclair: Edmonton-Strathcona

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WORLD



"If my calculations are correct, when this baby hits 88 miles per hour... you're gonna see some serious shit."
— *Doctor Emmett Brown*

STUFF THAT DOESN'T REALLY AFFECT YOU



THE GOBOT THAT'S ACTUALLY A CAMERA FOR NATIONAL PEST

Japanese robots accuse each other of causing the earthquakes with robotic defecation, leading to city-destroying battles of ultra chaos-chan.

EVERYTHING BAD IN JAPAN

Apocalypse unleashed in the island nation as flat tires, locusts spread

By John Kdick

After yet another tragic earthquake hit the embattled northeast coast of Japan Monday morning, reports began to surface that everything bad that could possibly happen to the beleaguered Asian nation is now occurring.

"I am sad to report that after the earthquake this morning, airplanes have began falling randomly out of the sky, cars have been breaking down miles away from gas stations that have run out of fuel, and even canned food in the country has started to spoil," said Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who had tripped while walking up to the podium and face-planted. "This has only exacerbated both the impending nuclear crisis we are dealing with in Fukushima, as well as the gigantic clouds of locusts now surrounding Tokyo. Also, I think my house is on fire."

Earlier in the day, Reuters had reported that random lightning strikes had almost destroyed the nation's already-fragile power grid, closing down clinics that had mostly already been destroyed by cars crashing through their doors. This prevented the nation's doctors who had suddenly forgotten all of their medical training from treating the population that was now mostly covered in boils and sores.

Japan has been dealing with the country's worst crisis since The Second World War and quite possibly the world's worst since Sodom and Gomorrah—after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck the island nation on March 11. The quake unleashed a tsunami that seems to have triggered a series of unfortunate events. Multiple bad things have happened since then; the reactors of several nuclear plants are close to meltdown, earthquakes continue to hit the nation on a weekly basis, and the Yen has plummeted as a currency, leading to widespread economic problems.

But after Monday's earthquake, additional stranger consequences started to appear, as men everywhere suddenly became impotent, leading to wanton sexual frustration and Japan's entire population of 128 million people repeatedly stubbed their toes. As a result, the Japanese have refrained from standing up, slowing the economy and industries to a halt. The crisis is expected to cost hundreds of billions of dollars to repair, which the country could most likely afford, had they not forgotten the PIN to their bank account.

Regardless, world leaders praised Japan for their stalwart efforts to deal with their own problems and not ask for international help.

"As has been shown, the Japanese are an incredibly proud and industrious people," U.S. President Barack Obama stated. "Regardless of how much fire and brimstone is thrown at them, I am confident that they will be able to overcome whatever ridiculous odds the world can throw at them."

Following the statement, Obama stumbled across a $100 bill, and then learned that the Chicago Cubs beat the Houston Astros earlier that day.

Professional luck analysts concluded that Obama had somehow stolen all of the luck from Japan, throwing the country into turmoil and despair.

Obama's lucky streak continued, earning him an extra pack of gum from a White House vending machine, as well as Michelle Obama agreeing to anal.

National Pest
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Insane Clown Posse explains the science behind the nuclear crises in Japan, attributes disaster to mysticism

By Glarin' Hole

At a recent government press conference in Japan, the hip hop duo Insane Clown Posse were brought in to explain some new discoveries made regarding the nuclear plant accidents.

The Japanese government had trouble communicating the intricate details, having asked how meltdowns worked, and relied on the shock rap pair to provide a more accurate outline. Dressed in white and donning full Juggalo makeup, Violent J (he's the big one) began the presentation, despite having no background in nuclear science.

"This shit'll blow your fuckin' mind!" he said. "We got a theory, on, like, the nuclear shit happening."

After spraying the audience with Faygo and an elaborate pyrotechnical display, Shaggy 2 Dope (the other one) revealed their theory that had been garnering so much attention amongst ninjas.

"It's a fuckin' miracle," he said. "Well, not like a good miracle. A bad one, because this shit is tragic, but you know, it's still kind of cool. Not good cool, but still pretty mind-blowin'."

Several nuclear experts were in attendance, and asked the duo a number of questions on the more scientific aspects of the disaster, which ICP respectfully declined to answer, referring to the scientists as "lyin'" and pissing them off.

The scientists were subsequently escorted out of the conference. To fill their seats, ICP opened the doors to loyal Juggalos.

"This is just outrageous!" commented one of the removed scientists. "They didn't even talk about the corium as a liquid metal-ceramic eutectic! It would've been better if they brought in Sir Mix-a-Lot."

However, the Japanese government was more than thrilled with the outcome of the press conference, and mentioned that they may bring the hip-hop duo back in the future for other educational press conferences.

"I think that everyone can relate to ICP," said a government spokesperson. "I mean, they've made some crazy revelations about long-necked giraffes. Do you understand giraffes?"

After the conference, ICP boarded a plane to Libya to explain democracy.

National Pest
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QUEEN ELIZABETH TO RENEW VOWS WITH PRINCE PHILIP

ROYAL WEDDING x2

By Seemly Zen

FUCKINGHAM• Instead of a simple wedding for Prince William and Kate Middleton on April 29, Queen Elizabeth II declared that she will also be taking the opportunity to renew her vows with her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, creating a rare double wedding ceremony in Westminster Abbey, and embarrassing her grandson in front of the world.

Married since 1947, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip have recently rediscovered their joie de vivre in what should be their golden years. The Queen explained that the elderly couple had decided to publicly celebrate their love, to much awkward uncertainty from the British population.

"I also want to show my grandson what it really means to be in a relationship," Queen Elizabeth II said with a disconcerting and aggressive growl as she straddled Philip in front of reporters. "I don't want him to take after his father, aunts, and uncles on how to handle their marriages."

Although the queen has publicly stated her support for the young couple's marriage, she has also expressed her scepticism for their ability to maintain their relationship, after numerous other royal marriages have ended in dismal failure.

"Don't think I don't understand modern romance," Queen Elizabeth II said without blushing, as Philip's sloppy caresses and tongue-play that began on the Queen's lower back got progressively lower and caused several reporters to vomit. "People will run off with any Ron, Rick, or Larry these days without a second thought, and I would rather this national holiday represent the solid relationship Phil and I have rather than the flight of fancy we might see from these two."

The Queen also asked that for this year's royal family portrait, the photographer take two photos — one with Kate and one without — as previous royal divorces have forced royal designers to Photoshop exes out of the family photos.

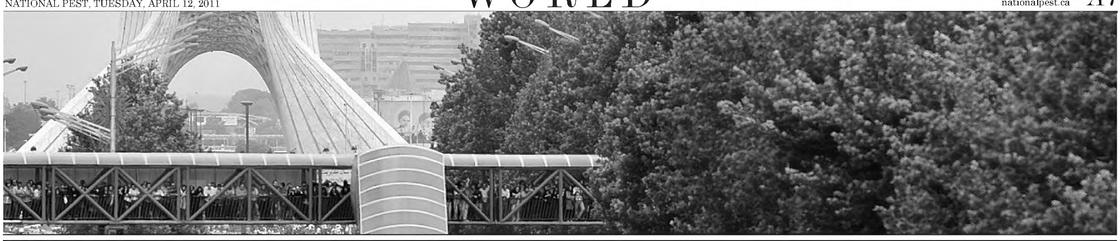
"Don't get me wrong, I love Katie. She's like family. I just want to make sure Willie gets it right."

In terms of the actual celebrations, the Queen has begun making plans for her bachelorette party to include all women of royal descent, but to which Camilla Parker Bowles, Duchess of Cornwall, will not be invited.

"I don't want to give her any ideas," the Queen cryptically explained.

Prince Charles suggested privately to reporters later that his mother may be feeling 'like a figurehead," and wants some more attention from global media which inexplicably seemed to actually give a fuck about the royal wedding.

The In-deep-endent



President Ahmadinejad focuses on highway cleanup, wiping out Ecuador

Iran makes a comeback

Bustin' Jail
still in jail, asshole



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FOR NATIONAL PEST

Iranian president Ahmadinejad has found solace when the world agreed that the Ecuador holocaust did not actually occur

In a bid to push the Libyan revolution off the front page of newspapers, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad released a rambling list of crazy projects Monday, all designed to swing attention back to the nominal pariah state.

He told CNN's Anderson Cooper that he will be implementing a series of reforms starting sometime over the summer that will force every Iranian citizen to spend three weeks per year cleaning the country's roads, while rebranding the U.S. the "Great Environmental Satan."

"Do you know how disgusting I-95 is? We, the Iranian people, actually care about the environment while Mr. Obama and his 'Do-no-crats' sit around and debate pointless policy," said Ahmadinejad as part of a rambling interview.

The president also called on regional allies to stop attacking Israel and switch targets to the small South American nation of Ecuador. When asked why one of the largest nations in the Middle East would interest itself with Ecuador, Ahmadinejad couldn't come up with a good answer.

"Trying to wipe out Israel is so 1948. Let's move on and try something different. What has Ecuador done for us lately? Nothing, that's what. They think they're so cool with their coffee beans and cocaine and stuff. Let's go after them."

While his interview with Cooper ran for a full 40 minutes and included a number of racial slurs and potentially explosive admissions, most analysts are calling it nothing more than a publicity stunt to get back onto the front page of major newspapers.

"It's sad really," said Jonathan Tennison, an official with the U.S. State Department. "I mean, none of these are really tenable options for Iran to pursue, and Ahmadinejad knows this. He just suckered Cooper into an interview so he could reclaim the position of being the region's number-one crank."

News coming from Iran has been bumped lately in favour of other conflicts, from uprisings in Libya and Syria, to fights between Israel and Hamas. Even the dinner menus of Saudi princes received more press than Ahmadinejad lately.

Ironically, Tennison's comment helped propel Ahmadinejad's initiatives onto front pages around the world (except in this fine paper).

While some analysts have said it could be bad news for the region, where wars are fought over seemingly nothing, Tennison said he wasn't worried that Iran would start a conflict just to get back in the news.

"Let's face it, Iran has nothing. They're all talk," said Tennison, calling the Iranian president's bluff. "Who are they going to go to war with? Afghanistan? Come on, that's like kicking a toddler for their lunch money. We'd be more concerned if he were talking about becoming peaceful. Then that's something to be worried about."

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Caamel Toe Assleak Frown
Grand Glamour Publisher

Dick Ram Sith Engorgin' Thing
V.P. Sellin' Out V.P. Sorcery

Stikki Wienerginski Gatling Buttcrack
Dir. of Pretty Arts & Things & Dick Lost
V.P. Carrying Stuff

Phallics Middle Boss Ingest
Snooze Peon Photoshop Peon

Rhyddergh Cadwalladerr
Bitter Peon

EDITORIALS

Scandal? Fraud? Fun!

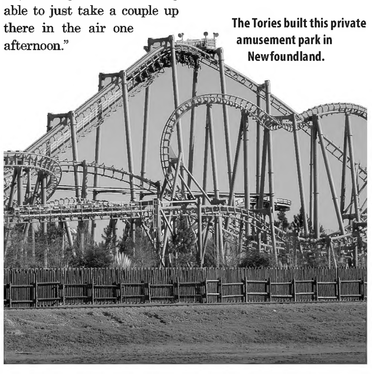
The NDP and Liberals have their tits in a knot because the Conservative Party spent $50 million earmarked for the G8 summit on completely unrelated projects and misled Parliament to get the funds approved: an amusement park in Newfoundland; a spa weekend for the cabinet and the top oil executives in the country; fancy new sidewalks for cities that aren't Toronto with LED-embedded stones that light up as you walk along them, and also play a different note depending on whether you hit the left, right, or center in a given row.

The remarkable thing is that people are actually, genuinely outraged and shocked. These poor saps are forgetting that the one thing that is completely integral to a functioning government is a complete disregard for fiscal responsibility. Besides, Newfoundland could really use an amusement park. I mean, have you ever been there?

Consider the sponsorship scandal that killed the Liberals' electoral ambitions in the first place. Torrents of government money went missing somewhere in Quebec. It was eventually discovered that although it was supposed to be spent on advertising, the funds were instead spent on research to build the perfect poutine.

Misuse of money? Yes. Fantastic use of the money nonetheless? Hell yes. Poutines are the only truly great thing about this country anymore.

Before the G8 became an issue, there was that thing with the fighter jets that Harper wanted to buy. The F-35 jets would be "wicked awesome cool to just, you know, have," Harper commented. "I'm really looking forward to being able to just take a couple up there in the air one afternoon."



The Tories built this private amusement park in Newfoundland.

Though it's cool enough that the government wants to spend money on what are really some unnecessary jets, the best part is that nobody actually has any sort of coherent idea of just how much money these things are going to cost.

And that, my friends, is the greatest sort of irresponsible spending.

So ignore this latest scandal, and vote them the fuck back in. A country that isn't continuously hemorrhaging money is a country that is getting pretty dangerously close to doing something vitally important. I, for one, will not stand idly by and let things like "progress" get in the way of irresponsible spending.

I mean really, would you go into politics if you were prevented from throwing money whichever way the wind is blowing that day? If you had to actually talk to your constituents and fellow MPs, coming to a compromise that ensures action on something important? That's too much work. Our government should be free to buy the most ridiculous shit on the smallest of whims, like a border fence with the U.S., or optimism in this country's future.

We stand at a terrifying precipice at this point in Canadian history. If the Conservatives fail to win a majority, the NDP and the Liberals will undoubtedly form a coalition and threaten to shove some actually reasonable, well-thought-out work down the unwilling throats of hard-working Canadians. For the sake of keeping the dollars flowing into all the wrong places, we must ensure this doesn't happen.

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Global warming hoax continues



By King Solomon

Alright, I've just about had it up to here with all this talk about climate change. I'm going to put an end to it once and for all. I've written many articles in the past about how because I don't like it, it's not happening. That's not the fallacy of appeal to consequences — it's just fact. So fuck you.

First of all, let's stop rebranding it "climate change." I don't know why they said they tried to change the name. I suppose they wanted to be as vague as they possibly could so that if shit suddenly gets cold, they got their asses covered. It's "global warming," alright?

Next, let's take a look at how many climate scientists believe that it's happening. What people like Al Gore want you to believe is that there's a strong consensus among climate scientists, the people who spend their entire lives becoming intimately familiar with the nuances of the global climate system, that things are getting hotter because we drive too many cars. And this one poll that I read found that 97 per cent of all climate scientists accept that. Sound pretty good? Sure it does. Until you find out that the sample size was "the five people I met at the bus stop outside Moxies." Not so impressive now, is it? Credibility: shot.

But forget about the experts. They just want more grant money from your taxes. Never mind that they have the same geological training that the oil industry pays better money for. No, what's most important are what people on the street think, or talking heads at newspapers. I asked around the newsroom here and 68.9 per cent of my colleagues thought that global warming wasn't an important topic. And I'd say we know a little something about what's newsworthy here.

We can't have one of these articles without someone bringing up cow flatulence, though. Look, farts are funny, and so it's an effective way of undermining the argument that humans are responsible for global warming by pretending that these same scientists are saying that the methane from cow farts is having a huge effect on the climate. Cows are natural, right, so therefore it's not humans. In fact, since humans are so good at keeping the cow population at below natural levels, we're doing the planet a favour.

Finally, the climate models. Oh sweet baby Jesus, the climate models. Basically, I don't have the time to actually look into how the models work. Instead, I like to cherry-pick anomalies and blow them completely out of proportion. This is because I've already decided that it's a fact that global warming is not happening, and search only for evidence to support that. You know that famous "hockey stick" graph? Actually, the model is entirely wrong. If you do the science correctly — without all that trickery discussed in the Climategate emails that shoddy things like "external investigations" exonerated from academic dishonesty — you find that the graph really looks more like a tennis racket.

It goes up, and then loops back around via time travel to the original temperature. Listen, it's complicated — just accept what I said.

The thing is, I'm too damn busy writing books about how global warming isn't happening to actually bother reading a book that explains all the evidence, the historical context, and shit like that. No, I'm getting paid to spout this nonsense on a national stage, and I'm sure as shit not ready to find a job that actually contributes to society.

Also, I just plain hate people who give a damn about not destroying the careful balance in the Earth's environment. Short-term economic growth, clearly, is far more important than the long-term survival of our species.

King Solomon
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LETTERS

YAWN KSNATCH OFFENDER-IN-CHIEF

RELAXIN' DIARRHEA MUDFUDGE, MANAGING EDITOR, NATIONAL SNOOZE
LUSTIN' SMELL DIRECTOR, BEATING CO-WORKERS WITH BIG STICK

MALICE CAN'T MANAGING EDITOR, FUCKING BITTER
URGIN' FOR A HURJIN' MANAGING EDITOR, PSS SQUIRTS

"HONEY BUNS" SMITH MANAGING EDITOR, JERSEY SHORE RECAPS
GLANCE MYERCK MANAGING EDITOR, IT'S PHOTOSHOPPED

MAN MCCOCKNEY PORN EDITOR
PIE-MAN YACKALOT EDITARD-AT-SMALL

More sexual tips for pussies

Re: More intimate cats: how to teach your feline to fellate, March 28.

I want to thank Tank McGonnigle for his article on how to teach my cat the forgotten art of fellatio. Little Mittens has been the talk of the town since I showed her the "lick, lick, paw" method, and her ability to mind the step-children is incredible.

But now I have a problem: what next? Mittens seems unwilling to move onto the master-level techniques you suggested, and it could affect her social standing. If I can't get her to toss the salad, I'm not sure what I'll do.

Marie-Claude Tinitino, Saint-Chrystome, Que.

Canada falling behind in use of excessive force

Re: Harper spends like maniac at G8, April 4.

The implication that the Conservative government spent too much money on the G8 summit seems ridiculous. If anything, they should have spent more. The police presence on the streets was minimal, at best, and the rioting that took place was an embarrassment. You want some proper rioting, take a look at what a bunch of kids managed to do in Chicago at a Democratic National Convention. Now those kids knew how to have a riot.

People got upset when a few dozen barefoot hippies were thrown in jail over incessant whining and their inability to run faster than the cops. I mean, come on; this country is based on running faster than an overweight cop.

If Canada is going to be the world leader in police-state action, we're going to need to spend a lot more than a measly $900 million on police action. Those hippies need to be put in place, and I won't be happy until they're all in jail.

Charles Cheese, Taber, A.B.

LETTER OF THE DAY

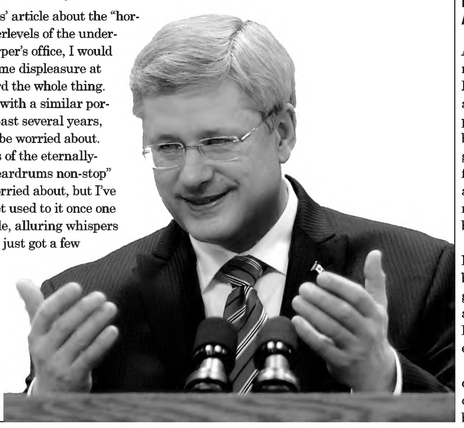
PM's portal to hell: nothing to worry about

Re: Portal to hell discovered in PM's Office, April 6.

Regarding Snootie McRollins' article about the "horrifying entrance to the netherlevels of the underworld" found in Stephen Harper's office, I would just like to express my extreme displeasure at your alarmist attitude toward the whole thing. I, myself, have been dealing with a similar portal within my study for the past several years, and it's certainly nothing to be worried about.

Yes, the "tortured screams of the eternally-damned hammering on his eardrums non-stop" is something to be a little worried about, but I've found that one really does get used to it once one opens one's mind to the subtle, alluring whispers of the demonic overlord. He's just got a few reasonable ideas—that's all I'm saying.

Percival Joneschuk, Second Lieutenant, Third Circle



The effects of demonic possession are truly minimal.

Layton's mustache for PM

Re: Too old to govern? April 3

Your implication that Jack Layton is, and I'm using your words here, "older than dirt," is disrespectful and completely outrageous. At the age of 60, he's still spry and adventuresome, and his hip replacement doesn't preclude him from holding the country's highest office — your assertion that he's a "hobbled old fart" is both off-mark and uncalled for.

I, for one, take hubris when one of our national newspapers stoops so low in their attack on someone who is so widely regarded. His mustache alone is enough to stop the heart of even the coldest witch, while his 1,000-megawatt smile melts my soul. We need to stop playing such ageist games. Layton does not, as you say, "need to be taken out back and beaten until he stops spewing leftist bullshit."

Olivia Chow, Toronto

Silver fox or silver devil?

Re: Grey hairs linked to evil thoughts, April 2.

As a certified medical practitioner myself, I found your piece about the links between men with grey hair and their increasingly evil and despotic nature both fascinating and bang-on. It's about time that the grey-haired devils among us are finally exposed for what they are: a bunch of maniacal bastards that need to be exposed as the racists and bigots they truly are.

In research I've done as recently as last week out of the van I live in, I've been able to show how the amount of grey hair is inversely proportional to a person's evil thoughts. Using Gilles Duceppe as an example, we can see exactly how evil he is.

His greying eyebrows hint at his deep-seated hatred of English Canadians, while his mope of silver locks betray his leftist and generally communist sympathies.

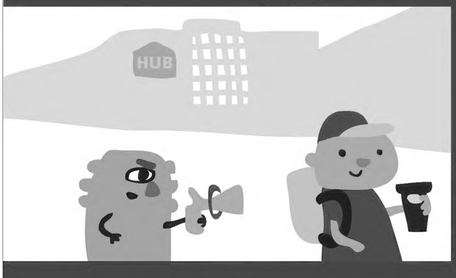
Stephen Harper would be the obvious exception here, his grey hair not being of the evil variety. His locks make him look distinguished.

Thank you for opening our eyes to this incredibly important issue.

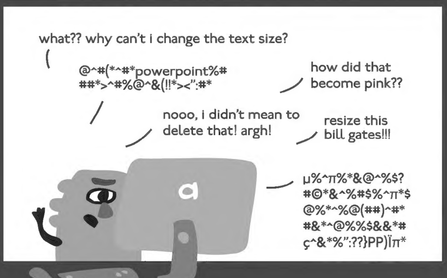
Dr. Jonathan T. Hammerfist, A van down by the North Saskatchewan River, M.B.

HOW TO MAKE AN ACADEMIC POSTER

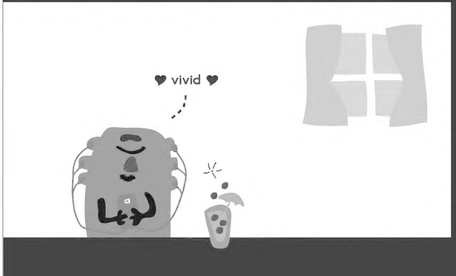
Step 1: Collect + analyse research material



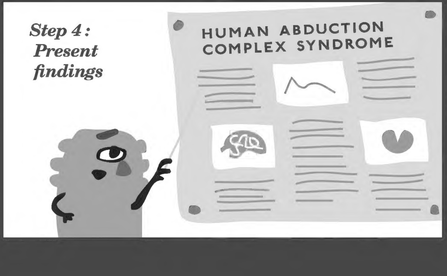
Step 2: Layout poster data + charts



Step 3: Print poster at Vivid Print



Step 4: Present findings



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Christopher Bitchins: *'You read my column because you know I'm better than you.'*

ISSUES &



CARLI MCDONALDS FOR NATIONAL POST

Sheen: a secret Saddam



By Christopher Bitchins

George Orwell — possibly the greatest man of letters in the 20th century — once remarked that "when the white man turns tyrant, it is his own freedom that he destroys." These words have gained a renewed relevancy in light of Charlie Sheen's personal implosion, through which he has denied himself the cash flow that has provided him with an unlimited supply of cocaine for the past decade, and which may land him another prison term should he continue on this path.

At first, I viewed Sheen's meltdown in isolation — as an inevitable consequence of too much money and too little sanity. But during one of my hourly injections of Johnny Walker Black, another addition to the increasingly apparent and perpetually evolving list of justifications for the intervention in Iraq came to me: if not for our efforts there, CBS's producers would never have been able to summon the moral and intellectual courage to terminate Charlie Sheen's contract.

> "Aren't you glad that somebody of my intellectual credentials exists to point such things out to you?

In retrospect, it's fantastical that it was only after rendering myself thoroughly inebriated that this obvious conclusion dawned upon me. The parallels between Sheen and Hussein are so staggeringly apparent and incontrovertibly self-evident that they're impossible for even staunch apologists of authoritarian brutality such as George Galloway or Noam Chomsky to miss.

The first and most prominent point of comparison is both men's possession of an insatiable hunger for wealth and power, as demonstrated by Iraq's illegal and unprovoked assault on Kuwait over oil and Sheen's increasingly grandiose demands. Sheen is, as Hussein was, an ego-driven narcissist who is unshakably convinced of his own brilliance (aren't you glad that somebody of my intellectual credentials exists to point such things out to you?).

They also share a long, sordid history of aggression and violence — Hussein by the aforementioned war of destruction, and Sheen in his habit of threatening his romantic associates with guns and knives. They both demonstrated palpable contempt for the authorities which ostensibly existed to govern them. In the Ba'ath Party's case, UN inspectors were expelled, obstructed, and defied at every turn; in Charlie Sheen's, the time he challenged producer Chuck Lorre to a cage fight.

And both tyrants were propped up by a base composed almost exclusively of religious fundamentalists. Hussein garnered support from the Sunni majority in Iraq. As far as Sheen's supporters are concerned, no formal inquiry has been conducted into their precise allegiances, but due to the intellectual vacuity of his television programme, it must be assumed that his audience are primarily theists.

In a previous era, the communities of international state agents and television producers may have stood by and tacitly tolerated such behaviour with a series of tepid denouncements unsupported by any further action.

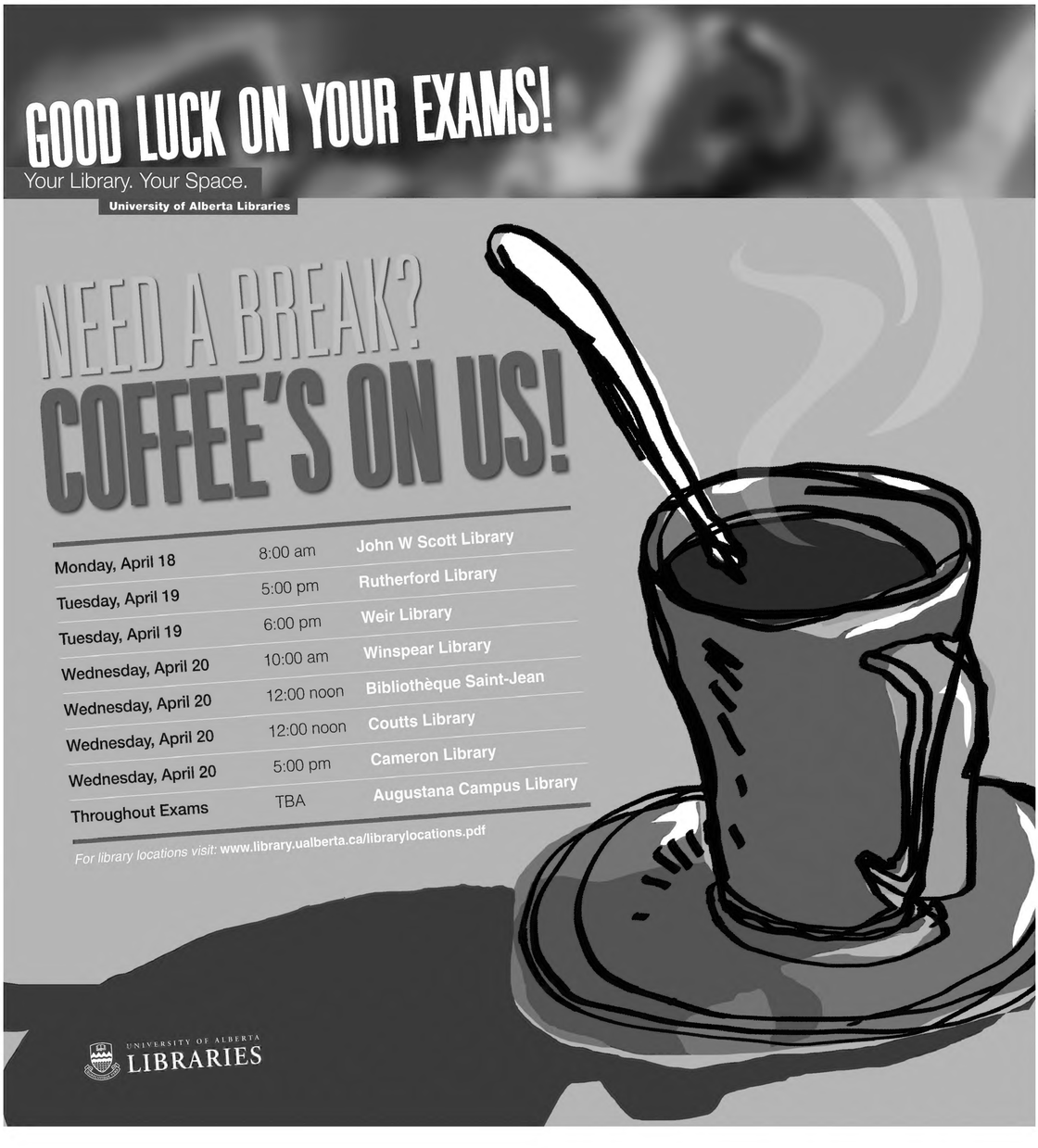
Thanks to the efforts of our coalition, the message has been sent that this conduct will not be permitted. Furthermore, while reciting these points in the Advanced Rhetorical Acrobatics class I teach at the New School, I received a nod from an Iraqi refugee student in apparent response to my opinions. I can only assume this represents a broad and unequivocal consensus on the part of the people of Iraq in support of my views.

The night and day distinction between the pre- and post-*Two and a Half Men* eras cannot be denied any longer by even the most committed members of the "anti-war" left, who would use Rube Goldberg-like contortions in logic to claim that such victories are undermined by the deaths of hundreds of millions of people overseas.

But to claim that one can fight a war without casualties is both irresponsible and ahistorical, and better programming is equally unachievable without sacrifice. I'm just glad that my sacrifices to those ends entail only the raising of a pen rather than an assault rifle.

National Post

Christopher Bitchins is a pretentious atheist who knows more than you do. He also writes books.



IDEAS

Danielle Smith: *'If I have to hear about the Tory leadership race one more time, I'm going to personally put Ed Stelmach out to pasture.'*



GEEGLE MAPS FOR NATIONAL PEST

This Geegle map is an accurate representation of Alberta's awesomeness

Other Western provinces can go on being alienated — Alberta wants nothing to do with them

FUCK THIS WESTERN SOLIDARITY BULLSHIT



BY DANIELLE SMITH

Back when this country was great — sometime before Trudeau was in power and we didn't allow women to sully the good name of democracy — the West held a powerful sway in the politics of the nation. Our great oil wealth was just starting to ramp up, and sod houses still dominated the landscape. It was our time, and we could feel it.

Then, everyone decided to jump onto the Western Alienation band wagon. Manitoba started bitching about their lack of interesting social life in its cities, while Saskatchewan wanted to diversify out of farming. And then British Columbia decided they were upset with confederation and had to jump on board.

Western Ontario apparently felt left out, decrying the state of Thunder Bay, a city so full of hosers you could form at least seven or eight fire brigades. And then the other shoe dropped — suddenly Danny Williams started complaining about Newfoundland's problems in getting sufficient interest from the West. As if we'd want to have anything to do with those funny-talking fishmongers.

I, for one, am tired of every province complaining about Western Alienation. You, my friends, are not part of my West. Alberta should be the only province that has a true claim to the pariah status.

This is a province that bows to a man who couldn't finish high school and had a hard time showing up to work sober for the first half of his political career. If we don't deserve at least an ounce of pity from that, I'm not sure what more we can ask for.

Alberta has been blessed with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and the nation's second-largest population of Newfoundlanders, behind only Gander. We're a province so full of opinionated, right-wing A-holes — including such luminaries as Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Rona Ambrose — we feel like traitors even when taking a left turn at an intersection.

When we go to the mall, we keep our cowboy hats firmly on our heads — because real Westerners don't have time to remove them when we go indoors. Our cowboy spurs have never seen the side of a horse, and our pick-up truck beds are kept pristinely clean. When we go to Cowboys wearing our favourite shitkickers, we can be comfortable knowing no one in that establishment has ever herded cattle. And it's about time the rest of you started respecting us.

However, for some reason, Alberta became a net importer of energy, despite our huge oil reserves. It's probably because you guys are pumping out so much of that sweet, juicy black gold that we have to buy some back to meet our needs. The only thing that comes close to that is the vicious exportation of marijuana from B.C., but they can suck my nuts.

Besides, B.C. is full of hippies. I don't know what there is in Saskatchewan or Manitoba, because the one time I drove through those provinces, I'm pretty sure I saw more livestock than I did people. That includes the stop in Regina. I'm pretty convinced there are fewer than a thousand people living in those two entire provinces, which makes them outstandingly irrelevant.

So if they want to complain about being alienated, it's their own damn fault for not moving to the bastion of civilization that is Alberta.

National Post
secedetoday@nationalpost.ca

TWAT for independence



BY ANITA G. LAYD

It's election time again, and once more the citizens of Canada must ask themselves the ultimate question — how is this going to affect Toronto? As the cultural, financial, spiritual, social, physical, sexual, and intellectual capital of Canada, each candidate and their party should be examined in terms of what they'll bring to the GTA. Now is the time to be critical of the leaders and ask the questions that really matter. Like, where the heck is the province of Toronto in all these election platforms anyways?

Thanks a lot, Jack Layton, for all the newly hired doctors and nurses. But what about money for Toronto sports teams? If only we had a little bit more funding, the Jays could finally reclaim their place as the best baseball team in Canada.

And what about the Liberals, with all their 'equality for all' speeches? Time to drop the façade; we Torontonians know we're the best. The rest of Canada just can't compete. If we must go with the equality thing, just remember that Toronto is more equal than others.

As for Harper's platform of "investing in the development of Canada's North," frankly, there's not a lot more developing that needs to be done past the 44th parallel. It's all ice and polar bears, nothing we need to worry about here at the world's centre of culture.

Similarly, the Green Party doesn't have much for Toronto, and it's hard to see what Elizabeth May is complaining about. Since having your own car is expensive, and getting stuck in traffic is such a drag, we're totally not putting out the same amount of greenhouse gases as the rest of the country. Frankly, we shouldn't be held to the same standard. If anything, we should build a million nuclear power plants surrounding the city just to piss her off.

It's pretty obvious that Gilles Duceppe is going to fail to promote Toronto and all it stands for. But the Bloc is on to something — they've got the right idea, even if they picked the wrong province.

> Just remember that Toronto is more equal than others.

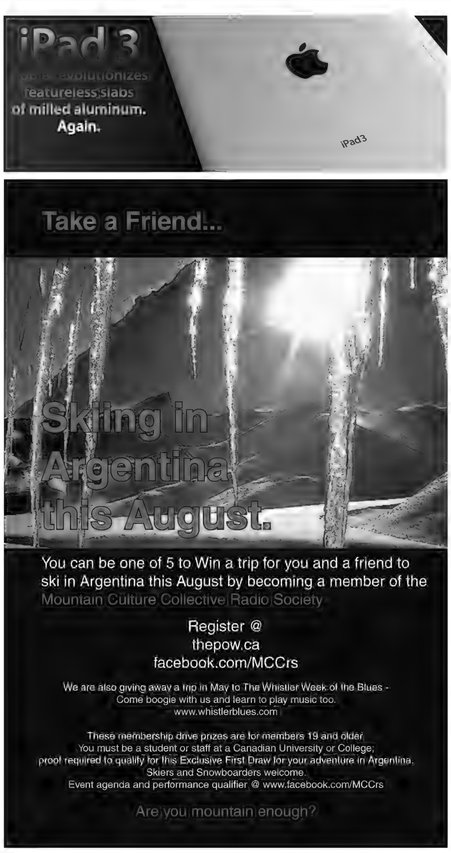
That's what Toronto needs — a GTA-centric political party that is really concerned with what matters, like putting just a couple more stories on the CN Tower. A Toronto separatist party could really help put the GTA on the front page of all Canadian newspapers all the time, and not just during elections.

Time to get the ball rolling, Toronto, so send along your thoughts for The Working Alliance of Torontonians (TWAT) to stand up for what Toronto needs. Damn, Toronto's awesome.

National Post
secedetomorrow@nationalpost.ca



Toronto's big phallic symbol





LEAVE IT TO BIEBER

How many times can the teen pop sensation reinvent himself? *Page BBER*



NATIONAL PEST, TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

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Bringing you all the good arts shit. *Details, Page B2*

BOOKS

"IF I DID IT"

Accused killer Mark Snitchell plans for a new memoir — I mean, fictional story loosely based on his life. *PAGE 14*

ART

PRETENTION

We're better than you, and we want to make sure you damn well know it. *Page VR6*

HOTMAN ALERT

GERARD BUTLER GROWS SEVENTH AB

Experts baffled but also aroused. *V8*





POLITICS GETS ROWDY

Forget campaigning — the real recipe for votes is GTL

By M-Skillz Jones

Top-level politicians on Parliament Hill are slinging obscenities back and forth like monkey excrement —well, more so than usual. With the recent announcement of the new show *Rideau Shore*, the candidates for Prime Minister in the upcoming federal election are hoping to fist-pump their way to a majority government.

Sussex Drive is ground zero for this surefire Emmy winner, with Stephen "The Heat" Harper begrudgingly sharing his house and hot tub with Michael "The Dilemma" Ignatieff, DJ Gilly D, and Jack "Gunshow" Layton. Since filming began in late March, it has become increasingly clear that these new housemates may have differences they still need to settle.

The season promises plenty of drama as the housemates try to balance their busy schedule of campaigning and partying on Parliament Hill.

"The show's made us all appreciate how much we hate each other," Liberal leader The Dilemma explained, applying hair gel to his eyebrows. "That's just how it happens on the Hill."

The Heat reportedly had a difficult time relinquishing his sweater vests for muscle shirts, but has since wholly embraced the Hill lifestyle. "Be careful," he said. "The party better be boss every night or I will totally prorogue that shit."

The Pest found Jack "Gunshow" Layton lounging in the hot tub and discovered he was more concerned with using his Hill fame to spread his new campaign tactics.

"Moustache rides for votes!" he proclaimed, his wry smile obscured by his homage to the inimitable Stalin. "It's the perfect way to get those kids out of the tanning booths and into the voting booths."

"No one speaks for this hot tub but me, bro!" The Dilemma interjected, igniting an hour-long screaming match between the two.

"Don't hate the player; hate the game," Gunshow said in response.

Later that night, The Heat was repulsed when The Dilemma was found removing his underwear in the jacuzzi. The two had been becoming increasingly combative as the days passed, but this proved to be the breaking point.

"Are you dumb?" he asked. "Hello! This is just another example of how he isn't in this for you. Especially you, Gunshow."

"Come at me, bro!" The Dilemma yelled back. The Heat was reluctant to engage in the jacuzzi for fear his new gelled hair had not yet become waterproof.

The next morning, however, he awoke to find that the Gunshow had formed a coalition with The Dilemma after one thing, apparently, "led to another."

"You guys smushed?" the Prime Minister of Canada asked in disbelief, before walking dejected along Ottawa's party street.

Gilly D could not be found for comment at the time of publication. He was reportedly last seen getting his creep on with some "slutty-ass skankwhores" and beating up the beat on the Hill.

Despite requests to participate in the show, Elizabeth May was denied entry to 24 Sussex Drive.

"She can't come in here!" The Heat proclaimed. "This house is under the jurisdiction of the Grenade Free Foundation!"

National Pest
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Ke$ha to bathe at last: reports

Star's sudden commitment to hygiene shocks music community

Juan Kvetch
in a dive bar

In her latest provocative and shocking move, pop princess Ke$ha has announced that she will finally be taking a shower, after years of rolling around on the floors of dingy clubs while singing.

The singer's publicist said in a statement released Monday that Ke$ha would be "shaking up her image by actually allowing herself to be covered in water, before using soap to remove the dirt, oils, sweat, and spilled drinks built up since her initial single 'Tik Tok' was released in 2009."

The move is expected to wash nearly two years worth of eyeliner and sparkles off the singer. She is also likely to lose approximately 10 pounds, according to experts.

"Come on, you can tell this girl smells like garbage just by looking at her.

Following soap, the singer will apparently not only use shampoo, but work it into a lather, before washing it out and proceeding to comb her hair, a move that some industry insiders believe could ruin her career.

However, the singer appears to be embracing her new image as a clean vocalist. Her publicist also announced a change in her summer tour name, from "Let's Get $leazy" to "Let's Get $oapy." This coincided with the online-only iTunes release of her latest single, "The Party Don't Stop 'Til I Walk In (To The Bath)." A Scratch-N-Sniff CD is reportedly also in the works.

See DIRT on Page B4



GET PRETENTIOUS

If you're not reading every word of this, you clearly have no taste at all.



You're reading the fucking arts section! That's right, you uncultured heathens: you better pay attention, because how else will you get your daily dose of unbelievably boring and pompous art reviews and irrelevant celebrity gossip? Besides, nothing in the entertainment world is even worth glancing at unless we tell you about it first. If you aren't absolutely hanging off every word we say, you're clearly doing it wrong. Eat this shit up, because you know you're doomed to a life of total confusion otherwise. Unless you want to be old and irrelevant before your time, you better not skip over these pages. Let's just say you've all been warned. *The National Pest*

ARTS REPORT

WILLIAM SHATNER CRIES MAGICAL TEARS

Scientists have developed an elixir granting eternal life, the primary ingredient of which is the tears of noted *S**t My Dad Says* actor William Shatner. "There is no way any 80-year-old man should look nearly as good as Bill does," said the leader of the team that developed the miraculous serum. "Once we realized that, it was obvious. Extraction of the active ingredient was challenging, but after that, the elixir basically invented itself."

Shatner, last seen getting into an unmarked van in late November, was unavailable for comment. *The Burgermaster, National Pest*



OPRAH LIVES FOREVER

Harpo Studios issued a statement yesterday that Oprah Winfrey will be extending her Farewell Season indefinitely. "Ms. Winfrey does not feel ready to relinquish her worldwide domination at this time," a Harpo spokesperson said. "She will be back next year to continue her television reign of terror."

It's unclear how Winfrey will continue to draw audiences to her aging show, but sources say that viewers can expect more bizarre Octomom interventions, unwatchable footage from road trips with Gayle, and of course, more segments discussing the pursuit of the mystical S-shaped poo.

Rob Rishbooking, National Pest



SECRET KARDASHIAN SIBLING DISCOVERED

The entertainment universe was abuzz last weekend after allegations broke that a secret fourth Kardashian sister had been discovered. It was revealed that the youngest Kardashian sibling Keefer, now 22, has been hidden from the world since her birth, forced to live in the underground dungeon formerly inhabited by Ke$ha.

Kim, Khloe, and Kourtney Kardashian were all reportedly furious that their rejected sibling had escaped, citing the difficulties they were already experiencing as they tried to share the spotlight. "There are only so many vapid reality shows to go around," a source said. "A fourth Kardashian sister just splits public attention in too many different ways. It's sad, really."

Despite the attempts to keep her out of the limelight, production has already begun on Keefer's new spinoff series, which will focus on her life in captivity. *Alexei Romanov, National Pest*



The dubstep disease

Medical research gives hope to unfortunate fans of the genre

By Ronald Dunfee

People who express genuine appreciation for dubstep music actually suffer from a medically diagnosable genetic disease, according to a study released by the British University of Music Studies.

The new BUMS study isolated the exact genetic mutation that results in an individual enjoying dubstep, a style of electronic music characterized by slow tempos, loud bass, and heavily distorted synthesizers.

"These people actually physically experience music and sound differently from normal people like you and me," said Nelson Rundle, physiologist and head of the team that conducted the study. "They literally don't hear the same things that we do. They somehow listen to those horrible wobbly synths, that mind-numbing fuzz, and the incomprehensible buzzing, and legitimately enjoy it."

"While not even under the influence of drugs, in some cases," Rundle added.

"We were able to pinpoint the exact series of gene pairs that result in these differences in aural perception," said Ted Dalpiaz, a geneticist who worked on the study. "For the first time, we are able to clinically test for bad taste in music."

Toronto resident Katy Antrim, a self-diagnosed dubstep fan, was relieved to learn the nature of her affliction. "All this time, I thought it was just part of who I was," she said. "Now that I know it's a medical condition, I can finally get the help I need."

The BUMS study carries implications that may reach beyond just dubstep fandom. "It's highly likely that nearby gene sequences are responsible for enjoyment of nu-metal, free jazz, and progressive rock," Dalpiaz said. "Our work indicates that there may be hope for fans of those genres as well."

Rundle and his team are continuing their research, providing hope for those afflicted with poor taste in music. At the moment, their focus is on working to diagnose fans of the Black Eyed Peas and potentially find a cure.

National Pest
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SCENT REVIEW

BACONGASM

Baquonessence
Pigstyland, Ontario

By Robby McSwine

Move over Baconnaise: a new challenger to the title of King of Bacon is here. And it wants to get intimately familiar with you.

Baquonessence aims to get that delicious taste, smell, and texture of the best part of the pig, and just slather it all over your body. Technically a perfume, but more accurately an essence, one squirt from the bottle is all it takes to send you and anyone near you right into bacon heaven.

As you go about your day, you'll always be surrounded by the aroma of crisp, smoked bacon. Cooking bacon is normally a mere 10 minutes of glory, but Baquonessence promises a full 12 hours before a reapplication is required.

Not only that, but as the grease drips across your skin, glistening in the warm sunlight, every now and again a tiny drop of l'eau de baconne will find its way right onto your tastebuds.

Nine out of ten of the rabbits the product was tested on involuntarily orgasmed when exposed to the wonders of Baquonessence. Instantly. Repeatedly. Until they were a dribbling mess.

So if that sounds like your idea of bacon bliss, grab yourself a bottle of Baquonessence and give it a — oh. Oooh. I feel a drop on the cusp of my upper lip right now.

National Pest
disgustinghog@nationalpest.ca

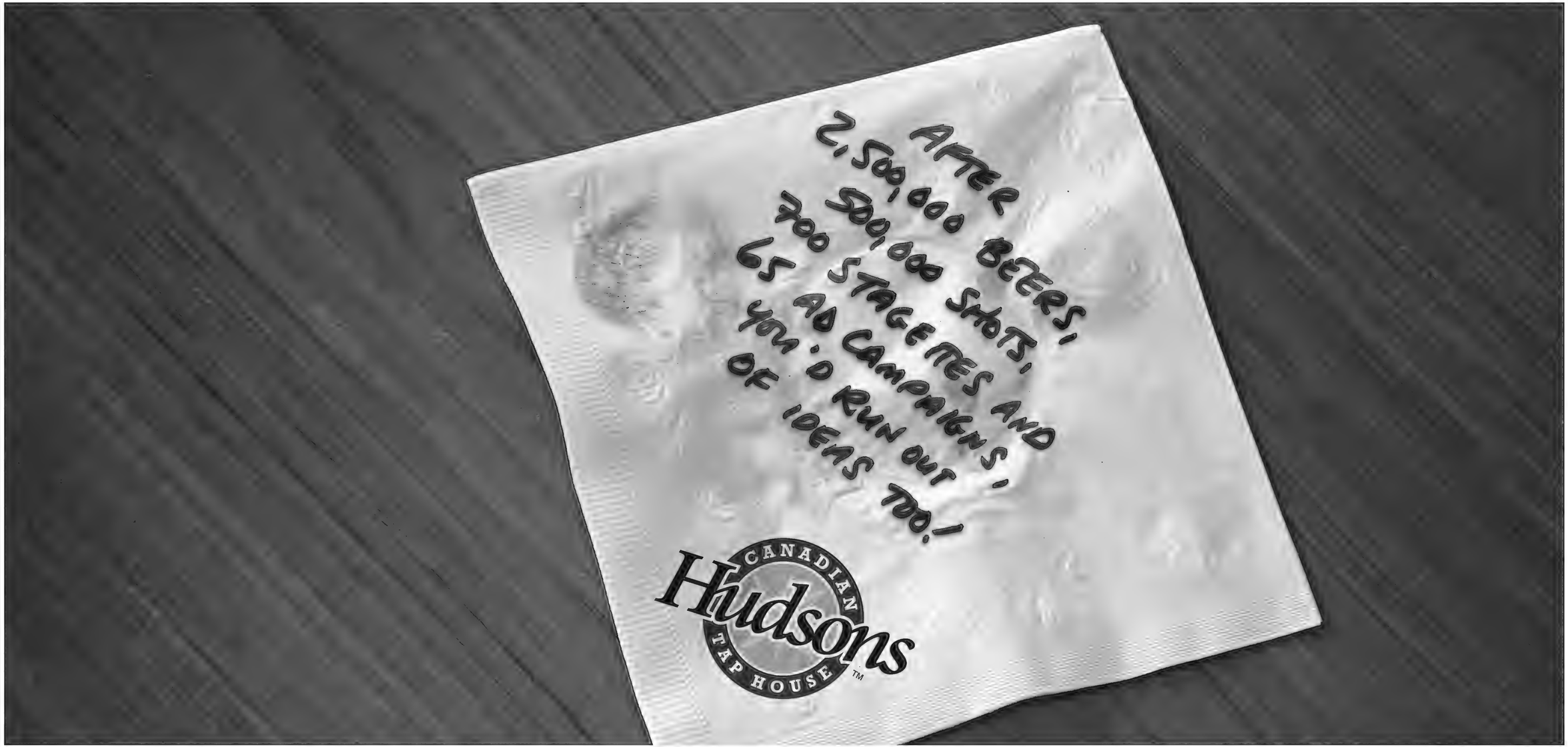
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"What about my kids?"

Ex-MLB all-star Manny Ramirez calls 'balk' after realizing he no longer qualifies for the league's 401(k) retirement plan ***PAGE B18***

IT'S IN THE BAG

In an unprecedented move to prevent injuries, NHL unveils automobile-inspired safety bags



By Jonnothan Key
on a shark

With concern mounting from fans, players, coaches, and medical professionals over the increase in head injuries in the league, the NHL announced this weekend they would be outfitting all helmets with airbags in order to prevent the recent spike in the number of head injuries sustained over the past season.

"The NHL wants to make it clear that we take this issue very seriously and we are attempting to look out for the well-being of our players," said NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman in a prepared statement.

"Therefore, the NHL, along with the NHL Players' Association and our partners in the automobile industry, have made the installation of headbags inside the helmets of all of our players mandatory, beginning immediately. We are doing this as a proactive attempt to avoid the problem, since we'd rather not acknowledge that headshots will occur in any contact sport or simply discourage hits to the head with severe punishments."

The new Hyperprotective Encephalon Anticoncussive Device, or HEAD, bags — designed specifically for the NHL by Toyota Motors Company in conjunction with helmet manufacturer iTech — use tiny cameras and proximity detectors in the player's helmet to sense any impending hits to the head.

"As you can see from this test run video, as the front of the player's skull comes closer to contact with Matt Cooke's elbow, the headbag deploys, preventing a potential concussion," Bettman said.

iTech has also announced the pending introduction of a luxury model that has both front and side headbags, as well as a crumple zone for the league's most valuable asset — Sidney Crosby.

However, the new headbag system still has complications that must be ironed out before the league can determine whether they actually prevent head injuries.

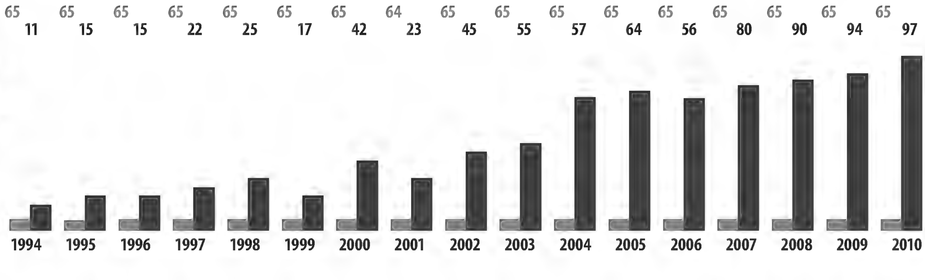
"In preliminary testing, only a scant 60 percent of players dealt with moderate to severe whiplash. As well, a few players experienced such minor injuries as fractured vertebrae and violent decapitation," said Mark Ulster, director of the Toyota Canada's HEADbag project.

Additional problems Ulster mentioned were that the headbags would occasionally deploy at inappropriate times, such as when a player accidentally fell or skated too close to the boards. Another issue that has arisen is the headbag would deploy too late, as seen when Boston Bruins centre Zdeno Chara recently hit Anaheim Ducks right winger Corey Perry from behind into the boards. Perry lay on the ice with a potential neck injury for five seconds before the headbag deployed.

The new system has also created other unforeseen problems, as the headbags take two hours to pack, causing game delays that had previously only been seen in cricket.

Wow! Jocks really are dumb

Number of headshots a year vs. Average player IQ



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THE MAN, THE LEGEND

IT'S A LONG ONE

An exclusive on the size of Brett Favre's penis. How did we find out? I'll never tell.



India beats Pakistan in 2011 Cricket World Cup, U.S. moves to Defcon 3



SPORTS REPORT

OILERS MAKING SLOW ASCENT TO TRIUMPH

Edmonton Hockey fans in Oil Country haven't felt this much excitement reverberating through the city since the infamous Stanley Cup Riots of 2006. So why all the buzz and overturned cars? The Edmonton Oilers will attempt to win tonight's Draft Lottery laying the groundwork for another Oil dynasty. And with the success that they've had with Taylor Hall this season, the franchise's eyes are set on a building towards a Stanley Cup championship in no less than 43 years.

LOCAL TEAM PLAYS IN THE BIG SPORTING MATCHUP AGAINST RIVALS

Local Coming after a heartbreak season with some of the most horrific injuries and one of the most devastating losses of life in league history, the home team reclaimed the championship Thursday night in one of the most unexpected and bloody upsets that this sport has ever witnessed.

According to the team captain, his squad emerged triumphantly through a unique combination of hard work and determination. But according to the team's captain, it was always about keeping their eyes on the prize.

"Well, we're not invincible, we're human too," he said.

The heated match-up between the two rival sides started off a little bumpy for the fan favourites, but with strong poise, the home team rectified their earlier mistakes at the mid-point of the game. After the opponent's recently acquired hot-shot ran up the score early, the home team utilized their experience to even the scoreboard.

After charging back into the match, the game remained deadlocked, and the adrenaline and testosterone between the competitors reached record levels.

In the second portion of the game, cheers from loyal fans acted to energize the team.

"At its best, this game is like a game of Russian Roulette," the victorious coach explained.

And in a moment of absolute revelation, the coach noted that the thrill of the fight sometimes distracts the players.

"You've got to keep your wits about you," the coach said. "Otherwise, who knows what the score will be at the end of it all."

As of press time, we're still unsure which team won the trophy.

THE END OF CHIVALRY

Master's tournament ends in violence

Weir and Mickleson throw down on the 12th

MAC SLUTS
at a kegger

The gentleman's game was forever tainted at the prestigious Master's Golf Tournament this weekend on the greens of Augusta National.

While Charl Schwartzel claimed the prestigious Green Jacket on the 18th hole on Sunday afternoon, something far more menacing happened just a few hours earlier when a two-some dropped their glove and started to brawl

According to our sources, who else but a couple of white middle-aged golf fans, the incident occurred as Canadian Mike Weir and Phil Mickleson — two previous Master's champions — crossed the Hogan Bridge to take their putts on the 12th green.

"I think I overheard Mickleson say something derogatory about Weir's mother," a short chubby man with a Georgian drawl said. "You could tell it really irked the Canajan [sic]."

That's when all hell broke loose. As the two veterans approached the green on the notoriously difficult hole, Weir fought back.

"They don't call it Amen Corner for nothing, eh Mick?" the Canadian said, making a antiquated reference to the difficulty of the sloping putting green while taking a jab at his playing partner's previous flubs on one of the most difficult holes on the course.

"Eat my white, dimply balls," Mickleson snapped. "Why don't you go back to the British Open, you Commonwealth-loving prick."

Perhaps the heightened difficulty increased the stress levels of Mike Weir and Phil Mickelson to an uncontrollable level, as tempers flared and the 12th hole at Augusta National became a boxing ring.

As the two players and their caddies walked up to the green, each salivating at the chance to potentially birdie one of the tournament's toughest holes, it became increasingly clear to everybody in attendance that the bickering between the two players would end up in a good ol' fashioned brawl.



Upon close inspection, it was evident that Weir and Mickelson's golf balls were equidistant to the hole — a unique circumstance that caused a further riff between the two steaming players. After a lengthy standoff where neither Weir nor Mickelson would volunteer to shoot first, the trash talking escalated.

"You're never going to make that putt anyways, weirdo! Your backstroke is worse than arthritic old man," Mickleson said before spouting pejoratives about the Sarnia, Ontario native's diminutive stature and lack of corporate sponsorship.

Weir took exception to the short joke, dropped his putter, tossed his hat on the grass, took off his glove and charged Mickelson. After a few tense moments of fisticuffs, Weir jersey'd Mickelson and started raining blows into his supple stomach.

Upon hearing the news of the fight, Augusta National chairman Billy Wayne made his way through the shocked onlookers to intervene and calm the tension between the two golfers.

After several minutes of conflict resolution where tears where shed and a couple misogynistic remarks were laughed at by the three middle-aged men, the brawl was over.

"I don't really like Mickelson that much," Weir said at a press conference after his round of 73 was finished. "But I think we solved our differences when we both happily realized that broads aren't allowed to golf at this course."

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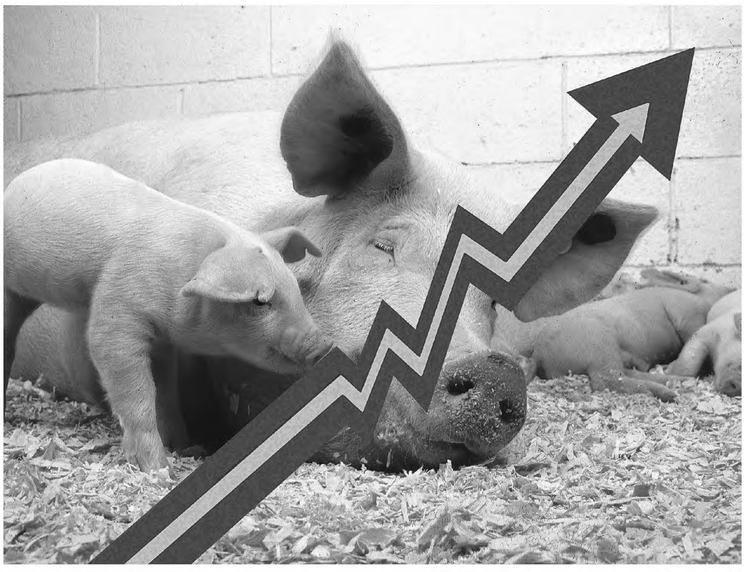
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Breaking your legs if you don't pay me. *Page P2N15.*

MARKETS

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MARKET HOG WILD

ANALYSIS

Bacon: the next big bubble

'SQUEEEAL LIKE A PIG!'

By Justinian Dong

Investors are frothing at the mouth while analysts are worried about what might turn out to be the next big stock bubble: hog futures.

The price of a full-size hog has more than tripled in the last three years. Up from an all-time low of 23 cents per pound in 2008, pork is now trading at more than $7 per pound, making a full-grown animal worth more than a small computer.

For the last two years, most of that pork has been going into bacon products — everything from bacon-flavoured vodka to bacon-flavoured toothpaste, and even bacon-flavoured chicken.

The craze reached a peak earlier this year, when Bacon Tenders Ltd. tried to infuse bacon flavouring into a line of recliner chairs. The thought was that lazy, chair-bound sports fans would grow so desperate for bacon flavouring that they would resort to licking their chair.

It's been a good ride for the hog industry, leaving a trail of prosperity and millionaires through the American Midwest and Saskatchewan, some of the biggest hog-producing areas in the world. But there's already signs of cracks in the good ship SS Pork.

In the last four months, the price of pork futures has become volatile, with sudden drops in prices. And big fast-food chains have been moving away from bacon in the past few months — Burger King has swapped bacon for tofu in its famous Baconator sandwich in an attempt to win over the growing hippy market.

Tom Thomson, an analyst with BMO's farming futures unit, released a note this week saying the hog market is about to be taken out back and butchered.

"This whole bacon craze is absolutely insane," said Thomson. "There's only so many all-bacon plates Denny's can foist upon the nation."

Thomson points to the ever-growing number of companies trying to get into the bacon market. Lego recently announced a bacon-themed line, the last straw for Thomson in the ever-growing bubble.

Releases from Health Canada about the proliferation of bacon could also send hog futures plummeting. A recent study by the national health organization found that 20 per cent of people eat nothing but bacon, while another 12 per cent of people "wrap everything in bacon."

> 'Once the situation in the Middle East settles down, we see that as a huge market [...] we think we can get them eating pork.'

"These people disgust me," said Health Canada spokesperson Jonathan Odierno. "How can you wrap everything you eat in bacon? I think these trailer-trash a-holes should eat some broccoli."

Pork futures dropped 50 cents after the release of the Health Canada study titled "You Fatties Should Tone It Down A Notch: A Comprehensive Study." Prime Minister Stephen Harper has asked the national health organization to stop interfering in the financial security of the country, and its hemline.

But pork advocates don't see the creation of a bubble, but rather a growth industry with almost unlimited potential. Bacon has almost saturated the North American market, and the sale of roasts has started to peak, but moving overseas could create more possibilities.

"There's a huge potential for growth in Africa and Asia," said Pork Canada chair Ronald Tenssor. "Once the situation in the Middle East settles down, we see that as a huge market. It's a young market, and we think we can get them eating pork."

This Little Piggy Ltd., one of the country's largest pork producers, has also continues to expand despite the recent turmoil in the market. The company spent $2.2 billion on a new pork research facility, the largest of its kind in the world, to determine what future products could be wrapped in the succulent product.

The price of hog futures continues to rise, despite the problems. Hog futures closed yesterday at $7.12 per pound.

TAKEOVER

Wait, Maple Syrup?! Yeah, fucking syrup

Chinese muscle in on our sweet brown thang

By Rusty Schlong

While Chinese companies have made big noises in the oil and manufacturing industries, they now have their sights set on a small Canadian industry.

The Chinese company Xin Tau is currently attempting to corner the market in maple syrup, buying up small manufacturers in Quebec and Ontario. Officials from the company won't comment on their recent purchases, but industry analysts in Canada are confused as to why they would try to buy out such a small industry.

"Honestly, this just seems spiteful," said BMO analyst Johnny Turqoise. "I mean, what value could they possibly get from cornering the maple syrup market? It was bad enough when they started making hockey sticks. What's next? Curling?"

The Maple Syrup market in Canada is worth an estimated $145 million in exports annually, a figure barely worth the effort, said Turquoise. But he said it could be a bigger move by the company to corner the breakfast topping market. They recently purchased a number of whipped cream manufacturers, and have pushed up the prices of raspberries.

Residents in Eastern Quebec, where most of Canada's maple syrup manufacturing takes place, were upset with the recent announcements. François Tungnerois, the mayor of the tiny community of Plessiville, an hour south of Quebec City, said it will devastate the 30 people still eking out an existence pulling syrup from trees.

"Sacre bleu!" said the surprised mayor. "How the hell is Jean and Claude supposed to get their beer money now? This could really destroy our heritage, and our ability to have nine drinks on a Friday night."

Maple Syrup manufacturers, the nine of them still working in Quebec's Eastern Townships, were also concerned about what the buyouts from the Chinese could mean to the industry.

"(Unintelligible French followed by what could be unintelligible English)" said a concerned resident from Sherbrooke. "(Maybe something about a dog)."

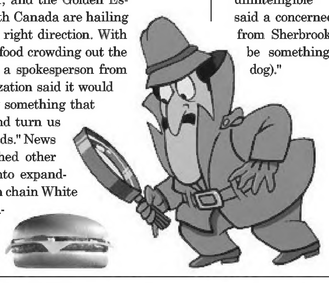
AIRLINE DOWN ON MOON ATTEMPT

Calgary WestJet Airlines announced Tuesday a steep decline in profits for the first quarter after a failed attempt at interplanetary travel failed horribly, killing 130 people. The stock was down 12 cents on the news. Officials from the Calgary company admitted that trying to fly to Jupiter was likely a bad idea. During the press conference, they said the Boeing 737 wasn't equipped for space travel, despite upgrades such as booster rockets and a sealed cabin. Engineers forgot the lack of air in space meant the commercial airliner couldn't fly. Company President Donald Trist said he was "really sorry" about what happened, though he refused to admit that it was a bad idea.



MCDONALD'S EXPANDS LE MENU

Chicago With an eye to grow same-store sales, fast-food giant McDonald's announced Monday they would be expanding into the world of French cuisine. Officials unveiled the move at their Illinois headquarters, at the same time taking off the wrapper on a number of new products. The McBaguette will join the Foie Gras quarter pounder, and the Golden Escargot. Officials from Health Canada are hailing the move as a move in the right direction. With deep fried and over-salted food crowding out the normal McDonald's menu, a spokesperson from the national health organization said it would good for Canadians to "try something that won't clog their arteries and turn us into a country of Tom Arnolds." News of the expansion has pushed other fast food chains to look into expanding their menu — American chain White Castle is considering rolling out a new Lebanese-inspired menu.



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FORTUNE TELLER

April 12, 2011 By Lants Moodeye

Nerd Alert! Here comes Trevor again. Man, I hate that guy. I just want to punch his dumb face in. Look at the way he dresses and speaks; it's nothing like us cool kids. Time to get my hate crime on.

Aries (March 21 — April 19) Be very careful around the Irish today. They're a crafty bunch, and sometimes you can't tell who they are when they hide their accents. Just to be on the safe side, tie three Fruit Roll-Ups around you waist. It couldn't hurt.

Taurus (April 20 — May 20) Your mother and I are worried about you. You're always out with your friends doing God knows what with God knows who. We're sending you to boot camp this summer to build some character and tighten up those morals.

Gemini (May 21 — June 20) A few ambiguously campy situations may happen to you today. A gay clown cries as you walk past, and you'll come across a video of a penguin giving head to a seal, but you can't look away. The image both haunts and titillates.

Cancer (June 21 — July 22) Whatever you do, do not look directly at the man jerking off on the bus. Sure, it's obscene, and you want to tell him to stop, but that'd only make him jerk it harder. Here's what you do: start jerking it, too. Give him a taste of his own delicious medicine.

Leo (July 23 — Aug. 22) Ha! You're a Leo? lolololol

Virgo (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22) You will give birth to a line of kings even though you yourself will never be crowned. Take steps to make sure Macbeth doesn't murder your children whilst taking a ride across Scotland.

Libra (Sept. 23 — Oct. 22) Late September is a shitty time to be born, so take this time to sit alone in your house and drink shots of wine until you can't feel your face. Whatever happens will either make you very rich or lead to your demise. It's a toss-up.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 — Nov. 21) People in the office are prepared to kill you today because you're a zombie. I'm not sure how you're reading this, but I'm like 90 per cent sure zombies can't read, so I'll stop writing now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21) Don't ever let the dogs out ever again, because every time you do, I have to hear that inane song by the Baja Men played over and over in my head. So please show some sensitivity in the future.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19) You will be amazingly productive at work today! Though since you're paid by the hour, this will lead to you finishing work one hour earlier, and you'll be $12 short of paying off your mama's hospital bill. She will die. Sorry, brah.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18) I know you're a hockey guy, Aquarius, so I'm going to tell you who's going to win: Canucks beat Rangers 4-3. Bam. Nailed it.

Pisces (Feb. 19 — March 20) This is not an ideal day to start masturbating on the bus. I know you do it all the time, but I think some will try to give you a taste of your own delicious medicine.

If Your Birthday is Today Tom Clancy (1947) and *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell* (2002) both share your birthday today. You're very insecure and it'd crush you to know that Melissa doesn't actually like you. You own an iPad 2 and like to tell people about the exciting things that happened to you while you lined up outside the Apple Store. Your year ahead will focus mostly on smoking a lot of weed and maybe doing some shrooms if your buddy finds a guy selling them cheap and in bulk.

midgetghosthunters.com

Vist the fortune teller archive at nationalpest.ca/liver

BRIDGE

By Lants Moodeye

NORTH
♠ Clover
✇ Nuke
Finger
♥ Bum

WEST
✂ Peace
Scissors
✍ Check
✔ Mark

EAST
● Circle
◗ Sad Face
● Circle
✆ StudentDrivers.ca

SOUTH
ⓘ 1:30
ⓘ 2:30
ⓘ 3:30
ⓘ 4:30

I'm not going to lie. I don't know the first fuck about this game. This was the only freelance work I could find. Bridge of all things.

Donovan passes the trump suit to McGill and Trips takes a hard fall into the boards as the opening lead turns out to be a fake. He was going for No Trump this whole time.

What a huge play by Donovan. He must have scored 30 or 40 points to get that book.

That puts Trips and JoJay down three sets and one a way from making this series a clean sweep.

▌Feedback always welcome at tweekin'@sketchmail.com

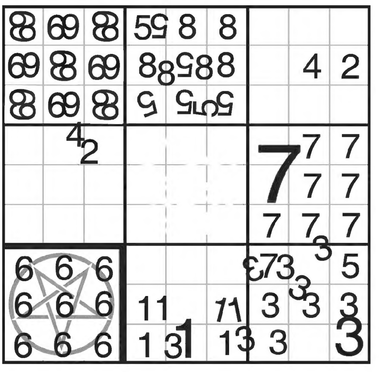
ON THIS DAY

April 12, 2011 Yesterday was Monday, Monday. Today i-is Tuesday, Tuesday (Partyin'). We-we-we so excited. We so excited. We gonna have a ball today.

Tomorrow is Wednesday. And Thursday comes after...wards. I don't want this work week to end.

To learn more, and listen to the rap verse, visit youtube.cats/reblackabeecomuzic

I'M SULOKO



Level: Guerilla Warefare

There is no way to solve this puzzle. The Numbers have been at war since as long as I could remember. My father fought for the Sevens years ago. If I stayed any longer in the city, I'd be drafted as well.

Monday's Death Tally

5	8	4	1	2	3	6	7	9
6	1	9	7	8	4	2	3	5
7	3	2	6	5	9	1	8	4
1	5	8	3	4	6	7	9	2
4	9	3	2	7	1	8	5	6
2	6	7	8	9	5	3	4	1
3	7	5	4	1	2	9	6	8
8	4	1	9	6	7	5	2	3
9	2	6	5	3	8	4	1	7

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THIS IS AN
ATTACK AD

Linda Duncan
and the NDP:

ATTACK STUDENT DEBT

* Called for needs-based grants, lower loan interest rates, a national ombudsman and limits on predatory collection agencies.
* Introduced the Canada Post-Secondary Act to lock in federal funding and get provincial commitments to keep quality up and tuition fees down.
* Will introduce legislation to cap credit card interest rates at 5% to make life more affordable for students.

ATTACK DIGITAL DILEMMAS

* Forced the government to review usage-based billing (UBB), which would limit competition and increase costs to consumers.
* Led the opposition to Harper's copyright bill, which tramples consumers' rights.
* Called for a more balanced approach to digital lock provisions.

ATTACK CLIMATE CHANGE

* Championed the Climate Change Accountability Act which set science based greenhouse gas reduction targets. Bill C-311 passed the House of Commons and was killed by the Senate.
* Support greater investment in energy retrofits and public transit.



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QUIN & MATT
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FP

BITCH HOFO

Traders at a loss to explain cocoa price swings. ***FP1***

SPORTS

DOG FITNESS

MLB batters in for another long year. ***Page B9***



COMMENT

SCREW THE RULES I HAVE MONEY

See what's got the French angry again. ***A13***

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WANTED: NEXT GREAT MOBILE GAME. ***DETAILS, B2***

VOL. 101 NO. 47 TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

Religion grounds to opt out of poopfest

Decision renews debate over forced defecation

By Charles Cheese

The dead included at least seven UN workers — four Nepalese guards and three Europeans frotm Romania, Sweden and Norway — according to UN officials.

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See UNIONS on Page A2

WORLD

BITCH HOFO

Traders at a loss to explain cocoa price derp derp derp. ***Page A1***



“His peeps say he's FRESH'N FLY IN THE SACK”

“Others DENY that his freshness falters”

“Frankly someone's GETTING SHANKED”

Always eccentric and often a pariah, Gaddafi's response to the revolt in Libya has some experts questioning his sanity

By Charles Cheese

As the world increases the pressure on Muammar Gaddafi to give up his reginme at least seven UN workers — four Nepalese guards and three Europeans frotm Romania, Sweden and Norway — according to UN officials.

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As the world increases the pressure on Muammar Gaddafi to give up his reginme at least seven UN workers it really does falter.”

See GADDAFI on Page A9

COMMENT

More cum than spunk

Decision renews debate over forced defecation

Charles Cheese
in Ottawa

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See UNIONS on Page A2

Majority in reach, A2

CANADA

BITCH HOFO RUMOURS

Traders at a loss to explain cocoa price derp derp derp derp derp derp. ***Page A1***